

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 877.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION OF 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1680), to reauthorize the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment to the House amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment to the House amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment to House amendment:

Page 6, strike line 1 and all that follows over to and including line 2 on page 7, of the House engrossed amendment, and insert:

SEC. 7. REPORT ON IMPACT OF OFFSETS ON DOMESTIC CONTRACTORS AND LOWER TIER SUBCONTRACTORS.

(a) EXAMINATION OF IMPACT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the annual report required under section 309(a) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2099(a)), the Secretary of Commerce (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall—

(A) detail the number of foreign contracts involving domestic contractors that use offsets, industrial participation agreements, or similar arrangements during the preceding 5-year period;

(B) calculate the aggregate, median, and mean values of the contracts and the offsets, industrial participation agreements, and similar arrangements during the preceding 5-year period; and

(C) describe the impact of international or foreign sales of United States defense products and related offsets, industrial participation agreements, and similar arrangements on domestic prime contractors and, to the extent practicable, the first 3 tiers of domestic contractors and subcontractors during the preceding 5-year period in terms of domestic employment, including any job losses, on an annual basis.

(2) USE OF INTERNAL DOCUMENTS.—To the extent that the Department of Commerce is already in possession of relevant data, the Department shall use internal documents or existing departmental records to carry out paragraph (1).

(3) INFORMATION FROM NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

(A) EXISTING INFORMATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall only require a non-Federal entity to provide information that is available through the existing data collection and reporting systems of that non-Federal entity.

(B) FORMAT.—The Secretary may require a non-Federal entity to provide information to the Secretary in the same form that is already provided to a foreign government in fulfilling an offset arrangement, industrial participation agreement, or similar arrangement.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the end of the 8-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the findings and conclusions of the Secretary with regard to the examination made pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) COPIES OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall also transmit copies of the report prepared under paragraph (1) to the United States Trade Representative and the interagency team established pursuant to section 123(c) of the Defense Production Act Amendments of 1992 (50 U.S.C. App. 2099 note).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING CONSULTATION WITH FOREIGN NATIONS.—Section 123(c) of the Defense Production Act Amendments of 1992 (50 U.S.C. App. 2099 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) NEGOTIATIONS.—

“(1) INTERAGENCY TEAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of Congress that the President shall designate a chairman of an interagency team comprised of the Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Defense, United States Trade Representative, Secretary of Labor, and Secretary of State to consult with foreign nations on limiting the adverse effects of offsets in defense procurement without damaging the economy or the defense industrial base of the United States or United States defense production or defense preparedness.

“(B) MEETINGS.—The President shall direct the interagency team to meet on a quarterly basis.

“(C) REPORTS.—The President shall direct the interagency team to submit to Congress an annual report, to be included as part of the report required under section 309(a) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2099(a)), that describes the results of the consultations of the interagency team under subparagraph (A) and the meetings of the interagency team under subparagraph (B).

“(2) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODIFICATIONS.—The interagency team shall submit to the President any recommendations for modifications of any existing or proposed memorandum of understanding between officials acting on behalf of the United States and 1 or more foreign countries (or any instrumentality of a foreign country) relating to—

“(A) research, development, or production of defense equipment; or

“(B) the reciprocal procurement of defense items.”.

Mr. NEY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment to the House amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, because I believe we are getting near the end of the business of this session of Congress, and at least on this side, we are not aware of whether the majority will allow unanimous consent requests in regard to the unemployment compensation extensions.

As my colleagues know, at the end of this month, we will expire the Federal Unemployment Compensation Program, and 80,000 to 90,000 individuals a week will exhaust their State unemployment benefits and will not be entitled to any Federal relief.

So I was wondering if the gentleman could just advise us as to whether the majority is prepared to allow unanimous consent requests, since there are no further recorded votes, I believe, anticipated today, so that we could at least bring up the extension of the unemployment compensation benefits to deal with the people who cannot find employment.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CARDIN. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on this particular issue I am actually standing in for the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY) on this particular unanimous consent bill. As far as the rest, that goes above my pay grade, but I am sure that our side will be more than happy to talk to your side.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1680, the Defense Production Act Reauthorization of 2003, and urge its adoption. The bill before the House is largely the same as H.R. 1280, and passed last spring by the Committee on Financial Services, and is the result of broad bipartisan and bicameral efforts to reauthorize and update this important Act.

Mr. Speaker, when the House acts today to send the bill to the President, it will be completing Congressional action that should have taken place no later than the end of September. The authorities in this Act are too important for the Nation to have been without them for the nine weeks.

That said, Mr. Speaker, what is before the House today is a very good product. First and foremost, it reauthorizes the Defense Production Act for five years. This is important for two reasons: Firstly, as the nation faces the uncertain times ahead, it will be important for the President to have the authorities in the Act, and secondly, because it will give Congress an opportunity to consider some much-needed modernization of the DPA decoupled from reauthorization cycle. It is my intent to ask the President to take the next year to ponder what sorts of modernization of the DPA is necessary, with the idea that any action on those or other recommendations would take place in the first session of the next Congress.

The bill we are considering today also adds as a specific goal of the DPA the protection of the nation's critical infrastructure. Given the increasing dependence of the nation's defense, financial services and in fact the fabric of our daily lives on our critical infrastructure, I believe this addition is both wise and important.

Finally, in addition to some other minor additions, the bill before us increases on a one-time basis the funding ceiling for a program to enhance the nation's ability to produce radiation-hardened electronics for use in, for example, defense satellites. This program is an example of one of the most important aspects of the DPA: creating a U.S. defense production capability where none now exists.

Most important of all of these, Mr. Speaker, is the reauthorization itself. The DPA is the tool that the President uses to meet a specific national security need—protective gear for our troops overseas, or specialized communications equipment—should we have a shortfall in